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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956



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Chairman of the Council : Councillor G. H. CLARKE, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor T. H. HASELDINE, J.P.

Councillors : ATTER, CAUSER, KIRBY, LEE, NUTT,
WRIGHT and WITHERIDGE.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., Col. I.M.S. (Retd.).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District).

Deputy M.O.H. — F. SEYMOUR, M.B., CL.B., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTORS

ARTHUR BAKER, F.I.A.S., A.R.S.I.

D. M. TUCKER.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District
of Wolverton**

June 17th, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1956.

There were a total of 172 births during the year, giving a corrected Birth Rate of 14.6 per 1,000 of the population. This is slightly down on last year and is also less than the rate for the County and England and Wales.

The Death Rate maintains a satisfactory low level, being somewhat lower than the County rate, and 2 points lower than the rate for England and Wales.. Of the total of 161 deaths, Heart and Allied Diseases and Cancer accounted for 123.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is at a most satisfactory low level. The rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births compares very favourably with the County Rate of 17.1 and the England and Wales Rate of 23.8.

In the realm of Infectious Diseases we had a quiet year compared with 1955. One case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified. The case was an infant and was very mild indeed. The introduction during the year of vaccination against "Polio" was a great step forward in the fight against this disease. Unfortunately the supplies of vaccine have been disappointingly small and up to the time of writing only 159 of the total of 396 children registered last year have been vaccinated. It is hoped that larger and more frequent supplies will become available during 1957.

The area was again visited by the Mass Radiography Unit from October 22nd to November 8th. In all 5,392 persons were X-rayed and it is satisfactory to note that not one case of Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis was discovered. Eight cases of Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered requiring no further treatment and 21 cases of non-Tuberculous conditions were discovered and referred to their own doctors for supervision.

There is no doubt that the Mass Radiography surveys provide a major weapon in our efforts in the prevention and control of Tuberculosis.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. J. B. Harwood, your Chief Health Inspector, Mr. A. Baker, the additional Health Inspector Mr. D. Tucker, and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS					For the year 1955	1956
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4,699	4,699
Population	...	...	...	...	13,510	13,450
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,579	4,587
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	...	£74,153	£145,809
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£301	£586
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	30/-	20/6
Births						
Legitimate : Males	...	...	...	...	78	89
Females	...	...	...	...	93	73
Illegitimate : Males	...	...	...	...	3	4
Females	...	...	...	...	5	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	15.0	14.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, Bucks County	...	...	...	...	15.4	16.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.0	15.7
Still Births	...	...	...	...	2	4
Deaths						
Males	...	...	...	...	88	80
Females	...	...	...	...	81	81
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	9.4	9.7
Death Rate per 1,000 Population Bucks County	...	...	...	...	9.8	9.9
Death Rate per 1,000 Population England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7	11.7
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality, England & Wales	...	...	...	...	.64	.56
Infantile Mortality						
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	5.6	5.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births, Bucks County	...	...	...	...	20.0	17.1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births, England & Wales	...	...	...	...	24.9	23.8

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF

DEATH

				1955			1956		
				M	F	T	M	F	T
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	0	1	1	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	14	20	34	16	14	30
Leukaemia	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	12	16	28	10	18	28
Heart Disease	...	...	...	39	26	65	30	29	59
Other Circulatory Diseases	.	.	.	1	6	7	2	4	6
Influenza	...	...	...	0	1	1	1	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	5	7	3	1	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	0	6	3	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	.	.	.	3	0	3	2	0	2
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	0	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	0	1	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	3	0	3	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	2	2
Accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	0	1
Suicide	...	...	...	2	0	2	0	1	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	2	4	6	6	7	13
				88	81	169	80	81	161

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Laboratory Services

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. Ambulance Lorries

These services are administered by the County Council and are now radio controlled from Aylesbury with sub-stations throughout the County. The Wolverton area is covered by Bletchley sub-station. British Railways also maintain an ambulance at Wolverton Works.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

Clinics are held twice monthly in New Bradwell and Stony Stratford and three times monthly at Wolverton. These clinics are attended by Nurses, Health Visitors and a doctor, and immunizations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough were carried out in addition to routine inspections. The total number of attendances by children was 4,068. A word of thanks and praise must be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time in helping to organise these clinics.

4. Chest Clinic

The clinic continues to do excellent work in the field of prevention and control of Tuberculosis. Sessions are held weekly at Messrs. McCorquodale's, Wolverton, and are under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician.

5. Physiotherapy Clinic

Administered by Northampton General Hospital, this clinic functions daily at Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, and is doing excellent work.

6. Wolverton Diagnostic Clinic

This clinic, also administered by the Northampton General Hospital, is situated at Messrs. McCorquodale's and is attended at various times during the week by Specialists from Northampton.

7. Dental Clinic

Administered by the County Council, this clinic is located at Wolverton and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

8. Nursing Facilities

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their excellent and noble work.

9. Health Visiting

The whole time Health Visitors are doing excellent work in this area.

10. Home Helps Service

This service, administered by the County Council with the assistance of the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 276 cases were assisted during the year.

11. Hospital Services

The majority of cases are sent to the Northampton Group of Hospitals, but some are also admitted to the Aylesbury and Oxford Groups.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A total of 92 samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination. In 86 cases the Analyst reported the water was very satisfactory. In 6 cases the Analyst reported some degree of pollution. Action was immediately taken to rectify this matter and subsequent samples showed that this pollution was of a transient nature and that the supply was once more of a high degree of bacteriological purity.

A small outbreak of niais worms once more occurred but heavy dosage by chloramine eradicated this infestation.

Complaints of 'unpalatability' were received and conveyed to the Bucks Water Board who are attempting to rectify this matter.

Details of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis are given below.

				Parts per million	
				Bucks Water Board	Calverton Road Pumping Station Stony Stratford
Total Solid Residue	...	...	...	474.0	626.0
Total Chlorine in Chloride	...	...	...	32.6	27.87
Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	53.69	45.79
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.060	0.104
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.056	0.084
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 3 hrs. at 98°F				6.646	0.800
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	Trace	Trace
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Calcium salts (as Ca CO 3)	...	...	...	245.0	307.0
Magnesium salts (Mg.CO 3)	...	...	...	34.0	42.0
Sulphate (as CO 3)	...	...	...	98.0	120.0
Alkalinity (Ca CO 3)	...	...	...	210.0	260.0
Reaction pH	...	...	...	8.0	7.4
Hardness (Degrees Clarkes Scale)				31.5	42.4
Lead and Zinc	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Copper and Iron	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Fluorine	...	...	...	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1

Public Cleansing

The collection of house refuse is on a satisfactory basis.

Closet Accommodation

With the exception of the Wealds of Calverton and the hamlet of Old Wolverton practically 100% of the houses in the district are on a water carriage system.

Shops Act 1950 (S.38)

Shops have been inspected for contravention of the above Act.

Markets

The market is inspected weekly as routine.

Smoke Abatement

Observations have been taken and it would appear that the degree of smoke pollution has shown some diminuation over last year.

Swimming Baths

The absence of a public swimming pool causes many children and some adults to use the river and canal for swimming. It must be stated the degree of pollution at

these swimming places is very high and must be regarded as a serious hazard to the health of those bathing.

The private swimming pool owned by Mr. Fegan's Homes at Stony Stratford provides a pool where only small parties of schoolchildren can be taught to swim.

It is pleasing to note that samples of water from the pool are reported to be very satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory Service. During inspections the pool was always found to be maintained in a spotless condition.

Eradication of Bedbugs

There have been no cases of bed bug infestation during 1956.

Rodent Control

One full time operative is employed and the constant work of inspection and treatment of premises infested or likely to be infested by rats has been rewarded by the fact that there were no major infestations of rats or mice found or reported during the year.

INSPECTION AND VISITS

Dwelling Houses

Number of Dwelling houses inspected	1387
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Meat and Other Foods

Number of inspections of Butcher Shops	92
" " " " Slaughterhouses	201
" " " " Meat Distributors Vehicles	...	...	82
" " " " Food Shops	...	...	503

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

Number of inspections of Distributors premises	19
Number of inspections of Distributors vehicles	103

Bake Houses

Number of inspections	33
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Ice Cream Retailers

Number of inspections	94
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Ice Cream Manufacturers

Number of inspections	39
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Factories and Work Shops

Number of inspections	234
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Petroleum Acts and Orders

Number of inspections of premises licensed to store petroleum	64
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Caravan and Moveable Dwellings

Number of inspections of caravans and sites ... 74

Infectious Diseases

Number of visits of enquiry ... 32

Schools

Number of inspections ... 19

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

On 1st January, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation. All persons carrying on the food trades affected by these regulations were circularised and presented with an abstract of the regulations.

This has been followed up by detailed inspection of premises and this work is still continuing. It was not found necessary during the year to resort to statutory action.

Number of Premises registered for the purpose of preservation of food ... 1

Number of Premises registered for the purpose of manufacture of sausage ... 10

Number of inspections of these registered premises 82

The voluntary surrender of food considered unfit for human consumption has continued.

This food is disposed of on our refuse tip. All tins are opened or pierced and then the contents are burned.

Ice Cream

There are 31 premises from which ice cream is sold and there is one producer of ice cream. Samples are taken regularly and details are given below of the number and results of these samples.

Ice Cream Sampling

Number of Samples taken	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
96	81	14	—	1

Milk

There are five persons carrying on the trade of milk distribution within the district and of these two are registered dairymen. Samples of milk are taken regularly and the results are given below.

Milk Sampling

Number of Samples Submitted	Passed	Failed
99	94	5

Meat

All butchers shops have been inspected periodically. There were six licensed slaughter houses and killing and inspection figures are given below.

CARCASSES and OFFAL INSPECTED and CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle (excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	43	1	2	108	50	—
Number inspected ...	43	1	2	108	50	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	—	—	2	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	13.9%	—	—	2.7%	2%	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.9%	—	—	—	2%	—

Cysticercosis

No animals inspected were found to be affected.

SECTION E

Factories Act

The Ministry of Labour & National Service Form 572 has been completed and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. General

Apart from 17 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year the district was comparatively free from Infectious Diseases. The one case of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified was an extremely mild one in an infant.

2. Notifications

			1955		1956
Scarlet Fever	...	...	8	...	7
Measles	...	...	358	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	17	...	17
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	6	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	6	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	0	...	1

3. Tuberculosis

Eleven cases were notified of which three were transfers into the district. There was one death.

4. Cancer

This disease continues to take its toll. There were 30 deaths during the year.

